

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 5 (canceled).

6. (previously presented) A system for percutaneous delivery of bone cement during a surgical procedure, comprising:

a plunger assembly, comprising:

a shaft having a first end, a middle section, and a second end, wherein said middle section is threaded; and

a handle attached to said first end of said shaft;

a dispenser hub assembly around said shaft, said dispenser hub assembly having a collar and a hand-grip attached to said collar, and a threaded portion formed on an interior surface of said collar;

a hollow tube pre-filled with the bone cement for use during the surgical procedure having a first end and a second end, said first end of said hollow tube adapted to be removably engaged with said dispenser hub assembly,

wherein said shaft is axially displaceable through said hollow tube for controlled displacement of the bone cement through said second end of said hollow tube; and

a release assembly disposed in a void formed in said dispenser hub assembly for

controlling the axial displacement of said shaft through said hollow tube.

7. (original) The system of Claim 6, said release assembly further comprising:

a trigger having a threaded portion for releasably engaging said shaft; and

a spring having a first end in contact with said trigger and a second end in contact with said dispenser hub assembly, wherein the bias of said spring causes said trigger to engage said shaft.

8. (original) The system of Claim 7, wherein a force applied to said trigger sufficient to overcome the bias of said spring causes said trigger to disengage said shaft and enables said shaft to be withdrawn from said hollow tube.

9. (original) The system of Claim 6, wherein said release assembly is adapted to selectively release pressure that may occur while applying the bone cement during the surgical procedure.

Claims 10 – 16 (canceled).

17. (currently amended) A cement dispensing apparatus for percutaneous delivery of bone cement from a disposable hollow tube to a patient during a surgical procedure, said apparatus comprising:

actuation means, comprising:

a shaft having a first end, a middle section, and a second end; and

a handle attached to the first end of the shaft; and

a dispenser hub assembly, around the shaft of said actuation means, said dispenser hub assembly having a collar and a hand-grip attached to said collar, and a said collar adapted to receive the disposable hollow tube; and

a release assembly disposed in a void formed in said dispenser hub assembly for controlling the axial displacement of the shaft through the disposable hollow tube,

wherein said release assembly comprises: a trigger having a threaded portion for releasably engaging said shaft; and

a spring having a first end in contact with said trigger and a second end in contact with said dispenser hub assembly, wherein the bias of said spring causes said trigger to engage said shaft.

18. (original) The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein the shaft of said actuation means is axially displaceable through the disposable hollow tube for controlled displacement of the bone cement through the disposable hollow tube when the handle of said actuation means is subjected to an external rotational force.

19. (original) The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein the second end of the shaft further comprises:

a groove formed therein; and

sealing means located in the groove for creating a seal between the shaft

and an interior surface of the disposable hollow tube for the delivery of the bone cement.

Claims 20 - 32 (canceled).